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SMITH'S CORONA

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APATECH

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CapriCon is, thank God, done
was much more work for Valli
it seemed to go rather well.

people, which may allow it to actually make a profit. Working the
con suite, I didn't get to see much of it... that I was able to leave
the room at all was due to the help we got from many and various
sources, including (from this apa) Gretchen & various Bills.

While CapriCon was certainly successful, I'm not sure that I will
be able to consider it the unqualified success the concom would have
liked to run. The concom was too small, causing every member to be
overworked. Hotel relations weren't bad, but were less than perfect.
The functions of "Guest-of-Honor Liaison" were forgotten.

Since then, I've been to Wiscon, MarCon, and MiniCon. Techac at these
for me was rather minimal. At MarCon, I ran into Bob Halloran in the
airport, and shared a cab to the hotel with him. At MiniCon, I joined
one of the many dinner expedition (including Bill Leininger & Valli
from this apa... oops, Rolf has joined, too) groups, and had an
excellent Chinese dinner, tempered only by the fact that my stomach
had been bothering me earlier, and so I had to keep things mild.

Upcoming are MidwestCon & AutoClave. Maybe XCon. I can hardly miss
Doug & Gretchen's MemorialDay berserker, altho it is about 1/2 hour
from here across town.

The two pages that follow are an experiment in Dot Matrix Ditto (or
DMD for ~~stupid~~ silly). You will be seeing more DMD if this works
out... It is produced on a DEC LA180 lineprinter using the output
from the traditional RUNOFF program.

GT & the Hugo Awards

For the last few months, I've been going around quietly complaining (at least, I thought I was being quiet about it) about various campaigns to get *EuroTechnics* onto the Hugo ballot. Remember last year's campaign was led by Bill Higgins who suggested nominating *Euro* as well as several GT-related people who qualified for the various fan Hugos. Bill did this unobtrusively, and wasn't plussing himself. *Euro* got 26 votes, and was six votes from being on the final ballot.

This year, things weren't quite the same. Jeff asked, in *Euro*, for the nomination for his zine as well as mentioning his recent short story publications. Bill Higgins repeated his support from last year. For several reasons, I suggested that this wasn't a good idea:

1. I believe that the Hugo awards should be awarded on the basis of broad support which comes from a quality entry. My gut feeling for the sort of campaign going on here is very negative; I equate a request for the nomination by the editor of the zine with handing out pre-marked ballots.
2. Several incidents occurred last year where GT members got bad reactions from other fans. Most of these incidents had to do with lasers, and have been discussed sufficiently inside of GT. I have suggested that GT needs to be concerned about how other fans see it. I felt that cries of "block voting" might occur if *Euro* were nominated because of this campaign. GT doesn't need this sort of bad press.

At one point, I tried to point out my objections to Jeff. The response I received [from sisma message AADICK<JEFF0310A] made me rather angry. Jeff wrote:

"Ballot stuffing? Gimme a break. You're raving again; cool off. No one has a chance at the Hugo's unless they can be noticed, and there are too few of us to be noticed if we all keep our mouths shut. The only way to be noticed is to get on the ballot. If you believe the Hugos should measure quality, well, I think *Euro* stands shoulders above near anything else in the field in terms of quality. So why shouldn't we compete on the final ballot.

"I'm less worried about GT's fannish reputation than yours. Only you have complained, and the louder you complain, the more people are going to consider you an unpleasable old grouch. Why piss off your friends by being so petty.

"Think about it."

Well, I did think about it. And I haven't changed my mind. More reasons:

1. I don't think *Euro* stands shoulders above the rest of the fanzine field, and I'm pretty sure that Jeff makes his pro-*Euro* statement from a position of ignorance. *Euro* has adequate, if unfancy reproduction; the writings within it has much variety, but little of great quality.
2. Unfortunately, *Euro* isn't exactly known for editorial writings. Even techies have been known to excuse the editorial with "that's only another one of Jeff's tirades". The latest issue contained a sample of Jeff's worst unthinking prose under the heading "Response to Jon Singer". This doesn't strike me as the sort of writing that deserves a Hugo.
3. If anything, being on the Hugo ballot will get GT more attention at just the time when Jeff has said that it has grown big enough. Can *Euro* increase its circulation to handle this expanded interest? Jeff has suggested that it can't....

Perhaps I *should* be worried about my reputation. I think that my friends are smart enough to understand what I'm saying, and why. (Just in case, I've written it all down here for you.)

I wrote the above before the award results were announced. As it turns out, *Euro* didn't make the final ballot, altho it did well for a 'non-semi-pro-zine'. GT is probably safe from publicity for another year.

By now just about everyone knows that Jeff *did* succeed in getting something onto the ballot. Indeed, two of his short stories, "Cold Hands" & "Guardian", were nominated! I congratulated him, saying that it was even possible that he deserved the nomination.

We'll never be sure that Jeff's two nominations were *not* due to block voting. LOCUS pointed out that few short stories got many nominations; I agree that it was quite difficult to find an outstanding short story. Fortunately, there is at least a chance he *is* deserving, and that's enough for me to let the matter rest.

I've notice that, for whatever reason, the Hugo award nomination results have caused alot of interest among techies toward changing the Hugo fanzine category. I'm convinced that this is a good thing. I hope that this same group will take the time to look at other fanzines so that some comparison with *Euro* occurs.

I believe that the nomination and voting for the Hugo Awards should not be biased by personal relationships. I think that the membership of GT should be altruistic enough to agree.

Well, the repro worked out ok, anyway, and I guess you'll be seeing more dot-matrix stuff from me in the future.

I managed to watch the shuttle land. I was in Ann Arbor on business, and didn't expect to be able to watch. Fortunately, the meeting ended early, and we decided to try to get on an earlier flight. We had time to get a sandwich and a beer in one of the airport restaurants and had just finished when we noticed that the bar across the way was getting rather crowded. We joined the crowd, and were able to watch the last minute or so in this group of 40 or 50 people. I think it is safe to say that everyone there was impressed. Perhaps there is hope for the space program yet.

Meanwhile, the day has come & gone again. Before she met me, Valli had never made the traditional (at least I consider it traditional) midnight of the fifteenth trip to the Post Office. If you've never been there, you might be surprised by the holiday atmosphere. And, of course, it's just about the only time you get curbside service. This year, I managed to be finished a few days before the big day itself, but we still went down to the main post office, as Valli had failed to mail some of her forms.

I have managed to obtain a couple of floppy disk drives at a *very* bargain price. (No, there aren't any more, or I would share them.) I don't know quite yet how I'm going to interface them with my system. My boss thinks we should design an i8 based controller at work, but I've been thinking lately that the easiest way to obtain alot of software might be to acquire an S-100 controller that could run the CP/M operating system that is so popular nowadays. If necessary, that system could run the disk drives as a slave system to anything else I wanted to run. But I'll probably buy a new car before I buy the disk controller, unless things change alot.

That's enough for now. I'll catch up on mailing comments in a future issue. Until then...

I remain,

Rich

I recommend "WARHOON 28" for NON-FICTION Hugo.

Anyone who visits is welcome to look at my copy.